UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode No. 25

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12:30 to 1:30 P.M. C.D.S.T. JULY 14, 1932 THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

(ORCHESTRA: QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER:

We take you to the National Forest where Ranger Jim Robbins and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, are on the job managing and protecting the public forest resources.

For several weeks now, the Forest Service has had a road crew at work constructing new protection road in the Pine Cone District, where Ranger Jim is in charge. The new roads are badly needed, not only to open up new areas to forest users, but also to provide better protection against fire for these inaccessible areas.

Today, we understand, Ranger Jim and Jerry are planning to go up to inspect the work of the road crew. We find them at the Ranger Station now, getting ready to go ---

ORCHESTRA:

JIM: Well, Jerry. All set?

JERRY: I guess I've got everything we need.

JIM: Got your scale stick?

JERRY: Scale stick? I thought we were going to the road camp.

JIM: So we are. But I want to stop by the logging camp on the way and go over a couple of matters with the foreman, so you might as well be getting some logs scaled while we're there. -- May save a trip up there tomorrow.

JERRY: Okay. I'll get 'er.

BESS: (COMING IN) Oh, Jim.

JIM: Yes? -- What is it, Bess?

BESS: (UP) You didn't say anything about lunches today. Will you need some packed?

JIM: No, Bess. I reckon we can talk the cook at the road camp into letting us have a little chow.

BESS: All right. I guess you won't starve.

JIM: I reckon not. (CHUCKLES) The cook up there's pretty handy with the pots and pans, -- if you keep 'im in a good humor, -- and I told him last time I was at the camp that his grub was good enough for a supervisor - or perhaps even a regional inspector, let alone a district ranger.

BESS: (BANTERING) Why don't you try some of that to keep me in a good humor too -- by praising my meals?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well now, I'd recommend one of your meals to the Chief Forester himself. -- Of course, if I haven't said so lately, that's just because it can be taken for granted, you know.

BESS: Oh, I see. -- Just the same, you don't seem to mind missing a meal at home several times a week.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, that's so we can appreciate home cooking all the more.

BESS: Oh! Is that it?

JERRY: Well, I mind missing 'em, Mrs. Robbins. You sure can put out the grub!

BESS: See there. Jerry'll stick up for me. --- I wish you could arrange to have just one day at home, though, Jim. You've been out on field work so much lately, I've hardly seen you.

JIM: I wish I could too, Bess. Maybe I can manage to stay home next Sunday and take care of some of this office work that's piling up.

BESS: Can't you take a day of rest?

JIM: One of these days soon, maybe. This is the busiest season, though, right now, Bess. -- I reckon I'll have to do most of my resting after I get too knee-sprung and wind-broke to work, and they turn me out to grass. -- But I've got a lot I want to do for this forest before that time comes.

BESS: (WITH FEELING) I know, Jim. -- It's just like it was our own forest, isn't it?

JIM: So it is, Bess. I've gotten so I have a sort of personal interest in every tree and rock in the district -- and I've just got to get around and see that they're gettin' along all right. (PAUSE) -- (CHUCKLES) Hi Billings -- our foreman up at the road construction camp - he got to hankerin' for the open too, this spring - so they tell me - and one evening about the time the buds first began to swell he gets up from the table and starts pacin' the floor like a lion in a cage. His wife'd been looking forward to a nice pleasant evening at home, so she ups and wants to know what all the sudden pacin' around's about. (CHUCKLES) Then Hi busts out and says "Sally, I gotta get out in the field where I can be alone and think things out with no one to interfere. What I would really like best," he says, gettin' poetic, "would be to get a pack horse and go back into the high country, where I could watch the sun rise and breathe the fresh morning air - in silence."

BESS: Wanted silence, did he?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, he got plenty of injured silence from his wife the rest of that evening.

(BESS AND JERRY LAUGH)

BESS: He deserved it.

JIM: I reckon. -- Well, Hi's got a long spell in the field ahead of him on this road job. I bet home'll look pretty good to him after a whole season on camp cooking.

BESS: I thought you were just praising your cook up at the camp.

JIM: Well, he aint so bad. (CHUCKLES) Speakin' of cooks - I had an application for a trail cook's job from a great big fat fellow one time - must've weighed three hundred pounds. I asked him for recommendations, and he said he'd never cooked for anyone but himself, but if I'd take a look at the size of him, that ought to be recommendation enough.

(BESS AND JERRY LAUGH)

JERRY: Almost too much, I'd say.

JIM: Well, Jerry, let's get going.

JERRY: All set, Jim.

JIM: So long, Bess. Most likely we'll be late getting back, so we'll get supper up at the road camp too.

BESS: All right. I won't expect you for supper -- but get home as soon as you can, won't you?

JIM: (GOING OFF) Sure. We'll do our durndest.

JERRY: (GOING OFF) So long, Mrs. Robbins.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(ROAR OF TRACTOR, AND OCCASIONAL SHOUTING, OFF)

JIM: Well, the boys are stringing this road right along.

JERRY: Making pretty good progress with that tractor all right.

JIM: I wouldn't exactly call this road a boulevard. I reckon some drivers that weren't used to the mountains 'd have heart failure if they attempted it.

JERRY: I bet they would.

JIM: But we'll be able to shoot a fire truck over it all right. We've got to get these low cost protection roads opened up as fast as we can with what funds we have, Jerry. -- Then we can think about widening them up and surfacing them later.

JERRY: Yeah. We sure need this road for fire protection. It'd take darn near a whole day to get a crew of fire-fighters in here in case of a bad fire - without this road.

JIM: Yep. -- Well, I reckon Hi Billings'll have to be moving his camp further up pretty soon now. They've got the road graded pretty far ahead.

JERRY: Uh huh. -- Say, Jim -- you know when we stopped at the logging operation on the way up, I got to thinking --

JIM: (CUTTING IN) Thinking? Glad to hear it.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Well, I was anyhow -- I was thinking there's an awful lot of waste in cutting timber. Look at all the tops and limbs and stuff that have to be burned with the slash or left in the woods.

JIM: You're right, Jerry. Logging waste is a big problem. Right now about forty per cent of the tree is being left as logging waste on the timber sale area, - and then when the log goes through the mill there's more waste in sawdust and slabs.

JERRY: Can't they find some use for it?

JIM: That's what we're trying to do, Jerry. Several of our research men at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, are working on it. If we could find profitable uses for the logging waste, the lumbermen'd be glad to know it. We already require 'em to cut trees close to the ground and avoid injuring young growth and things like that to prevent waste, but we can't ask 'em to work up all the rest of that waste stuff at a loss.

JERRY: How about using some of it for pulpwood?

JIM: Our Laboratory at Madison is working on that. It's already developed processes for making pulp out of several kinds of trees that nobody thought was any good for paper before. -- And then the boys at the Lab are studying the possibilities of using logging waste for small-dimension lumber stock.

JERRY: That's an idea! Why couldn't a small mill come in and work up the waste material after the area has been logged over?

JIM: That might be a possibility. Our Lab has been carrying on studies for some time now to improve small-mill operation and products. -- That Madison Laboratory of ours is quite a place, Jerry. One of these days I hope you can get detailed there to work for a while. It'd sure be good experience for you.

JERRY: I'd certainly like to have the chance.

JIM: They're working on every kind of problem in wood utilization you can think of. Testing wood every kind of way - for strength and hardness and nail-holding qualities - and everything. You see, the whole idea is to develop more efficient use of wood and new uses for wood - so that this country can get the most out of its timber resources and so that owners of timberland can be sure they will always have a market for their wood.

JERRY: I'd sure like to see some of the work.

JIM: Well, maybe you will. -- Here comes Hi Billings now -- (CALLS) Howdy, Hi.

BILLINGS: (OFF) Hello, Jim.

JERRY: Hello, Mr. Billings.

BILLINGS: (COMING UP) Hello there, Quick. How are yuh?

JERRY: Fine and dandy, thanks.

JIM: Well, Hi. How's the road work going?

BILLINGS: Fair enough, Jim. You can see we're movin' right along.

JIM: Yep. It looks good, Hi.

(PAUSE)

BILLINGS: You know, Jim, I'd sure like to get home and see the wife, though, for a spell.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) See there, Jerry? What did I tell you?

BILLINGS: What's that?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Nothing much, Hi. We were just speakin' this morning about how good home looked after a spell of field-work.

BILLINGS: It sure does, all right.

JIM: Hey, Jerry - watch that bulldozer clean out that trail now!

JERRY: I'm watching it.

VOICE: (SHOUTS, OFF) Let 'er go!

(ROAR OF TRACTOR, OFF - CONTINUES AT INTERVALS THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JERRY: Look at 'er shove all that rock and dirt! Bowls it right out of the way!

JIM: She sure does! -- That bulldozer is quite a contraption, Jerry. Sails right in and cleans out the way for the road in no time.

JERRY: I'll say she does! I bet it used to take 'em hours to do that work.

JIM: Yep, it did. Our Forest Service engineers developed this bulldozer just for this kind of work. We needed special machinery for road-building in rough country like this.

JERRY: Look at 'er move that boulder!

BILLINGS: That's nothin'. You oughta seen the big boulder she shoved off the trail yesterday. It woulda taken two teams of horses to get 'er outa the way.

JIM: She sure does the trick. -- The boys seem to like their work, Hi.

BILLINGS: Yeah. We make out pretty well here, Jim. The boys like the work all right -- and Pete Shank, he helps keep 'em in a good humor.

JIM: Pete? The fellow that's always grinning?

BILLINGS: Yeah. He's sort of a camp cut-up. (CHUCKLES) Last night the boys got together and drew up a bill of complaints on him. Want me to pass judgment.

JIM: Yeah?

BILLINGS: I guess I'll pass the job on to you. -- Here, take a look at that. --

JIM: (READS) "Bill of Complaints against Pete Shank" -- (CHUCKLES) It looks pretty good --

BILLINGS: How about trying that case this evening before supper?

JIM: All right. We'll take it up this evening.

BILLINGS: I reckon it's pretty near time to go back to camp for supper now.

JIM: So it is.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(BABEL OF VOICES: SHOUTS OF "HELLO, JIM," ETC., OFF)

BILLINGS: (CALLS) Hey there, you fellows. Bring Pete up here. Judge Jim Robbins's goin' to conduct yer trial.

(SHOUTS OF "HOORAY": "SOAK 'IM, JUDGE," ETC.)

JIM: (IN MOCK SERIOUSNESS) Well, -- ahem -- let's see now -- Shank? -- Are you Mr. Shank?

SHANK: Yes sir - in person. (SHOUTS OF DERISION)

JIM: Well, now, Mr. Shank. I have before me the following list of complaints, duly signed by the "Willow Creek Road Camp Vigilante Committee for Law and Order and Right Livin'."

(SHOUTS OF APPLAUSE)

SHANK: Yes, sir.

JIM: Complaint Number 1: - "Speeding with tractor" -- Guilty or not guilty?

(SHOUTS OF "HE'S GUILTY": "NEARLY DITCHED 'ER," ETC.)

SHANK: Well, I drove 'er four miles an hour, maybe.

JIM: Four miles an hour? -- Hmm. That's pretty serious. Guess we'll have to call it reckless driving. (APPLAUSE) -- Well, Complaint Number two is "Talking in sleep." How about that?

SHANK: How should I know?

VOICE: Sure he does - and snores, too. (SHOUTS)

JIM: Testimony seems to be unanimous. -- Well, Let's see -- Complaint Number three is "Eats too much." -- Guilty or not guilty?

(SHOUTS FROM AUDIENCE)

SHANK: Shucks. There ain't no chance of eatin' too much with these guys around. They git it first.

(MORE SHOUTS)

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, I reckon it's a case of every man for himself when it comes to eatin'. We'll pass that one over -- Let's see -- Complaint number four: "Grand theft of Bill Snook's Sunday Breeches" -- Guilty?

BOICE: Sure he is. He had 'em on last night - and it was on'y Wednesday. (SHOUTS)

SHANK: Well, yer honor - I figgered them breeches wasn't safe with Bill -- with him gallivantin' off every Sunday on his day of rest. No tellin' what might happen to 'em.

JIM: I see. -- Well -- Complaint Number five is "General Nuisance in Camp" -- How about that?

SHANK: Not guilty, yer honor.

(SHOUTS OF DERISION)

SHANK: Well, I mighta done a few things - like puttin' pine cones under Jake Swanson's blanket, fer instance - not thinkin he'd mind, of course --

JIM: (CHUCKLES) No, of course not. -- Well, now let's see -- (CHUCKLES) Complaint Number six is "Comes from Missouri." -- Hmm -- that's a pretty serious charge. Guilty or not guilty?

SHANK: Guilty, by gosh - and durn proud of it.

(SHOUTS)

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Seems to be no doubt on that point. -- Well, now, let's see what the last and final charge is -- Complaint number seven is "Menace to Society." How about that?

SHANK: Well, I dunno, yer honor. But I betcha I'm agoin' to be a menace to a couple of fellows in this camp fer bringin' up this complaint --

(SHOUTS OF DERISION)

SHANK: With me tryin' to work here peaceful and quiet-like, not botherin' nobody --

(MORE SHOUTS)

JIM: Well, now, Pete Shank -- This is a pretty serious case -- I reckon we'll have to make the sentence pretty heavy. (APPLAUSE)

SHANK: Aw, not too heavy, yer honor.

JIM: I reckon for one thing -- we'll have to sentence you to doing without dessert for supper tonight.

(APPLAUSE)

SHANK: What's the dessert gonna be?

JIM: I don't know. (CALLS) Hey, Cook -- What's the dessert tonight?

VOICE: (OFF) Prunes.

JIM: All right, Pete. No prunes tonight.

SHANK: No prunes? That ain't no punishment -- that's a reward.

(SHOUTS AND LAUGHTER)

JIM: And in addition, Pete will be required to return Bill's Sunday breeches in good order, - and to put a fresh coat of paint on the cook wagon.

(APPLAUSE)

SHANK: Hey, I'm a tractor-driver. I aint no painter!

JIM: Court's adjourned.

(APPLAUSE, AND BABEL OF VOICES FADES OFF)

JIM: Well, Hi. How did that suit you?

BILLINGS: Mighty fine, Jim. I was just thinkin' this morning that the cook wagon was lookin' pretty seedy.

JIM: Well, a coat of paint won't do it any harm. -- Good bunch of boys we got in this road crew, Hi.

BILLINGS: Yeah. They're hard workin' - and they all seem to like the job, too.

JIM: Did I ever tell you about Big Ole, the logger?

BILLINGS: No.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, Big Ole said he'd found the best boss in the world. His new boss gave him sixteen hours to do a day's work in, and all the other bosses he ever had only gave him twelve.

(JERRY AND BILLINGS LAUGH)

JERRY: I guess there'd be something in that, with a boss like you, Jim. -- Say, you sure know how to kid with the boys in the road crew.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Don't do any harm to join in their fun, Jerry.

JERRY: I guess a ranger has to be a judge or a diplomat or something, besides knowing all about timber cruising and cattle raising and all those things.

JIM: Well, I reckon a ranger's got to know something about nearly everything.

JERRY: I'm finding that out all right.

(SOUND OF BEATING ON TRIANGLE, OFF)

JIM: There goes the dinner bell. Come on, Jerry. We'd better get after that grub before the boys eat it all.

ANNOUNCER:

Well, folks, we'll leave Ranger Jim and Jerry to their supper at the road camp. --

Roads and trails in the national forests open up to visitors splendid woodland and mountain scenery and opportunities for outdoor recreation. They also aid in the administration of the forest areas and in their protection from fire. The Forest Service is improving and extending its road and trail system in the national forests to make new areas accessible as rapidly as funds become available. Visitors are welcomed to use these roads, the Forest Service asking only that they observe the regulations governing their use, particularly as to care with fire and the throwing of cigarettes, matches, or other lighted materials from moving cars, and that they use every effort to prevent damage to the country they traverse.

Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be with us at this same hour next Thursday. This program comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

The role of Ranger Jim is played by Harvey Hays. Others in today's cast were:---

er/10:45 A.M.
July 9, 1932.